

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An Internet based time and expense data system comprising:

5 a first server for interfacing with the Internet and having a data storage device having general purpose software stored thereon;

a second server in communication with said first server and having a data storage device, said second server also having general and special purpose software stored on said data storage device;

10 a third server having a data storage device for storing a plurality of data in a database and having general purpose software stored thereon, said third server being in communication with said second server; and

said special purpose software being operable in connection with a processor and the general purpose software provided on each of said first, second and third servers for:

receiving data from a user of said system via the Internet;

storing the received user data in said database as internal data; and

20 creating external data from the internal data based upon user-selected criteria for converting internal data to external data and storing the external data in said database.

2. A system as recited by claim 1, wherein said special purpose software comprises a plurality of application programs including a time bills, an expense reports, a time sheets, a proposal and a project tracking application program.

5 3. A system as recited by claim 1, wherein said special purpose software comprises an application program for providing time bills, expense reports, time sheets, proposal and project tracking functionality.

10 4. A system as recited by claim 3, wherein said special purpose software further comprises an off-line application program downloadable via the Internet to a computer remote from said first server, a user of the remote computer having an account having a plurality of data items defined and stored in said database, said off-line application program being installable on the remote computer and operable with a processor of the remote computer for:

15 storing time and expense data in a database on a data storage device of the remote computer;

20 establishing a connection from the remote computer to said first server via the Internet; and

communicating the stored time and expense data to said third server for storage in said database as internal data;

said special purpose software being further operable in connection with the processor of said second server for deleting the stored time and expense data from the

data storage device of the remote computer after the stored time and expense data is communicated to said third server.

5 5. A system as recited by claim 4, wherein said special purpose software is further operable in connection with the processor of said second server to download the plurality of data items for the user's account to the remote computer when said off-line application program establishes a connection from the remote computer to said first server.

10 6. A system as recited by claim 1, wherein said special purpose software is further operable in connection with the processor of said second server to create an invoice for a client from the external data and for communicating said invoice to the client over the Internet via said first server.

15 7. A system as recited by claim 1, wherein said first server, said second server, and said third server comprise a single computer.

20 8. A system as recited by claim 1, wherein said first server, said second server, and said third server comprise separate interconnected computers.

9. A system as recited by claim 1, wherein said third server comprises a plurality of interconnected computers and wherein said database comprises a plurality of databases provided on said plurality of interconnected computers.

5 11. A system as recited by claim 1, wherein said data storage device of said third server comprises a high speed data storage device.

12. An Internet based time and expense data system comprising:
a server having a data storage device and having general and special purpose software stored thereon, said data storage device including a plurality of data stored in a database and said server being connected to the Internet, said special purpose software being operable in connection with a processor of said server and the general purpose software for:

receiving data from a user of said system via the Internet;

storing the received user data in said database as internal data; and

creating external data from the internal data based upon user-selected criteria for converting the internal data to external data and storing the external data in said database.

20 13. A system as recited by claim 12, wherein said special purpose software comprises a plurality of application programs including a time bills, an expense reports, a time sheets, a proposal, and a project tracking application program.

14. A system as recited by claim 12, wherein said special purpose software comprises an application program for providing time bills, expense reports, time sheets, proposal, and project tracking functionality.

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15. A system as recited by claim 14, wherein said special purpose software further comprises an off-line application program downloadable via the Internet to a computer remote from said server, a user of the remote computer having an account having a plurality of data items defined and stored in said database, said off-line application program being installable on the remote computer and operable with a processor of the remote computer for:

storing time and expense data in a database on a data storage device of the remote computer;

establishing a connection from the remote computer to said server via the Internet; and

communicating the stored time and expense data to said server for storage in said database as internal data;

said special purpose software being further operable in connection with the processor of said server for deleting the stored time and expense data from the data storage device of the remote computer after the stored time and expense data is communicated to said server.

16. A system as recited by claim 15, wherein said special purpose software is further operable in connection with the processor of said server to download the plurality of data items for the user's account to the remote computer when said off-line application program establishes a connection from the remote computer to the server.

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17. A system as recited by claim 12, wherein said special purpose software is further operable in connection with the processor of said server to create an invoice for a client from the external data and for communicating said invoice to the client over the Internet via said server.

18. A system as recited by claim 12, wherein said server comprises a single computer.

19. A system as recited by claim 12, wherein said server comprises a plurality of separate interconnected computers.

20. A system as recited by claim 12, wherein said database comprises a plurality of databases provided on said plurality of interconnected computers.

21. A system as recited by claim 21, wherein said data storage device of said server comprises a high speed data storage device.